



WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE A. F. of L., BY INSTRUCTION OF ST. LOUIS CONVENTION, DIRECTED THE OFFICERS AT HEADQUARTERS TO FURNISH A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER, FREE OF COST, TO ALL OFFICIAL LABOR PUBLICATIONS.

Containing a brief summary of important matters, affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will further the development and progress of the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
HEADQUARTERS

801-809 G ST. N. W., WASHINGTON, D. C.

FRANK MORRISON, SECRETARY

SAMUEL GOMPERS, PRESIDENT

No. 55.

INJUNCTION LIMITATION BILL

Washington, April 20.--During the entire session of the present congress efforts have been made to have reported, favorably, from the judiciary committees, of both houses, labor's injunction limitation bill, but without success. Recently, however, Senator Bacon of Georgia introduced in the senate an injunction limitation bill and Congressman Bartlett of Georgia introduced a similar bill in the house. These bills, instead of being referred to the judiciary committees of both houses, as has been the custom, were referred to the committee on education and labor of the senate and the labor committee of the house. At a meeting held by the house labor committee on Wednesday, April 17, it was unanimously decided to favorably report the bill, and Chairman Wilson of the labor committee, the leader of the labor group in the house, reported the bill to the house on Thursday, April 19, and it was placed upon the calendar. This bill contains the provisions which labor has been fighting for many years, and signallizes the influence and power which the American Federation of Labor is wielding among the national legislators.

RAILWAY CARMEN INCREASING

Kansas City, Mo., April 20.--Secretary William Weeks of the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen says that during the quarter ending March 31, eight new lodges were organized and several re-organized. This organization now has 552 local lodges, with a membership of approximately 33,000 and still growing.

CARPENTERS WIN

Chicago, Ill., April 20.--The 15,000 carpenters that went on strike for a minimum wage of 65 cents per hour have been successful in securing their demands and a three year's agreement.

BROTHERHOOD OF LEATHER WORKERS

Kansas City, Mo., April 20.--The Brotherhood of Leather Workers on Horse Goods is conducting an aggressive organizing campaign and is meeting with a considerable degree of success.

STRIKE AGAINST LUMBER COMPANIES

Seattle, Wash., April 20.--Members of the International Shingle Weavers' union are on strike at the Hoquiam Lumber and Shingle company against a 10 per cent reduction in wages. The strike has spread to Grays Harbor and Raymond. The sawmill workers of Tacoma, aided by the Longshoremen, are also on strike, their demands being for a higher rate of wages. The mill companies have appealed for the state militia, but have been refused. The Greek Consul has filed a complaint at Washington, D.C. alleging the violation of the treaty with Greece, on account of the deportation of Greek strikers. It is stated that the mill companies are now willing to pay the wages demanded, but refuse to take back the strikers. There are insufficient men to operate the mills, and the prospect for a complete victory is excellent.

NUMEROUS INCREASES FOR CARPENTERS

Indianapolis, Ind., April 20.--General Secretary Frank Duffy of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, reports that the contractors of Galt, Ont., Canada, have signed an agreement with the local union which carries an increase in wages of from 5 to 10 cents per hour and the Saturday half holiday. At Beardstown, Ill., an increase in wages was secured of 5 cents per hour. Somerville, N. J., gave an increase of 4 cents per hour, and an increase of 2½ cents per hour has been granted the carpenters at Wildwood, N. J. At Jefferson, Mo., also the carpenters have been successful in securing an increase of 10 cents per hour, making the minimum wage 50 cents.

STRUCTURAL IRON WORKERS' INCREASE

Indianapolis, Ind., April 20.--Since the first of the year the Indianapolis local union of the Bridge and Structural Iron Workers has secured an increase of 5 cents per hour. The local union at Buffalo, N. Y., has also gained an increase of 5 cents per hour. At Chicago, Ill. the local organization has secured a three years agreement with an increase in wages each succeeding year.

HAIR SPINNERS GET RAISE

Baltimore, Md., April 20.--The local organization of Hair Spinners has obtained an increase in wages of from 25 to 45 cents per day without strike. The number of apprentices has been regulated by agreement and a stipulated wage agreed upon, together with favorable action upon the reduction of hours, which latter proposition will undoubtedly take place in the early part of June.

STREET CARMEN GET RAISE

Baltimore, Md., April 20.--Efforts have been recently made to organize the motormen and conductors on the United Railways in this city, and as a result the wages have been advanced 2 cents per hour, undoubtedly with the object in view of forestalling the organization of the system.

Carpenters at Alamoosa, Colo., obtained advance in wages from 35¢ to 50¢ per hour without strike.

LEGION'S RECEPTION

Washington, April 20.--On the morning of the arrival of Carl Legien, the eminent German trade unionist, in New York, Organizer Hugh Frayne of the American Federation of Labor, together with Secretary Bohm of the Central Federated Union of New York, met him at quarantine, they having secured permission to board a revenue cutter destined to meet the incoming ship. Upon the vessel arriving at the pier in Hoboken Mr. Legien was met by a large number of representative trade unionists, who escorted him to his hotel. President Gompers arrived in New York in the evening of the 16th to greet Mr. Legien and later accompanied him to Boston and Quincy, Mass. Mr. Legien's first speech in this country was delivered at Quincy before the Granite Cutters' convention, President Gompers also addressing the convention. President Gompers and Mr. Legien then returned to Boston, where the mayor of the city tendered them a complimentary dinner. They also met the governor. A large mass meeting was held in the evening at Wells' Memorial hall, where President Gompers and Mr. Legien delivered addresses to one of the largest audiences ever assembled in Boston. At the conclusion of the meeting both came direct to Washington, arriving here on Thursday, April 18, on schedule time, and they were met by a large committee of Washington trade unionists. In the evening a banquet in honor of Mr. Legien was held at the Arlington hotel, which was attended by a large number of representative union men and congressmen. Arrangements are formulating to have Mr. Legien, who is a member of the German reichstag, address the house of representatives. A largely attended mass meeting was held in this city on Friday evening, April 19, at which Congressman W. B. Wilson, chairman of the Labor Committee of the House of Representatives, presided. President Gompers and Mr. Legien delivered addresses. Mr. Legien's first speaking date after leaving Washington is Buffalo, N. Y., where he is due Sunday, April 21.

DALZEIL DEFEATED

Washington, April 20.--For a number of years the American Federation of Labor has fought the nomination and election of Congressman Dalzell of Pennsylvania on account of his conspicuous antagonism toward any legislation in the interest of labor. Like ex-Congressman Littlefield of Maine, whom the A. F. of L. effectively assisted out of congress, Dalzell has now passed to his political reward, he having been defeated for the nomination to congress during the recent primaries. Thus passes to the shades of oblivion another of labor's enemies.

EIGHT HOUR BILL REPORTED

Washington, April 20.--The eight hour bill has been favorably reported out by the committee on education and labor in the senate, and has been placed upon the calendar. Every indication points to the fact that the bill will be passed by the senate within a reasonable time, the bill having already passed the house by an unanimous vote.

ILLITERACY TEST REPORTED

Washington, April 20.--The immigration committee of the house has reported out a provision in the immigration bill providing for an illiteracy test.

LEGIEN ARRIVES LATE

Washington, April 20.--Carl Legien, president of the Federated Unions of Germany, secretary of the International Secretariat, The World's Federation of Labor, and also member of the German Reichstag, coming to this country to deliver a series of addresses under the auspices of the American Federation of Labor, arrived in New York on Tuesday, April 16. Mr. Legien was due to arrive on Sunday, April 14, and a mass meeting had been arranged in one of the largest halls in New York City for Monday evening, April 15, at which he was to be the principal speaker. Owing to fogs the boat on which Mr. Legien had passage, arrived in port two days late, and as a consequence the meeting had to be abandoned. It was unfortunate, for thousands of people had congregated, expecting to hear this celebrated union leader deliver an address. Notwithstanding the abandoning of the New York meeting the schedule mapped out for Mr. Legien's speaking tour in the interior will be carried out on schedule time.

THE GREAT CATASTROPHE

Washington, April 20.--The members of congress have been greatly stirred by the terrible disaster which overtook the Titanic, and the air is surcharged with expression of opinions relative to legislation on maritime affairs that will preclude the repetition of the fearful loss of life sustained by the sinking of the ocean liner. It is a well known fact that the provisions made for the safety of passengers on large ocean vessels has been conspicuously inadequate. There is no doubt but that congress will pass drastic legislation in the not distant future, with the view of compelling greedy ship owners to provide adequate safety measures to protect the passengers and crew on all vessels of American register.

GRANITE CUTTERS IN CONVENTION

Washington, April 20.--The granite Cutters' International Association of America is holding a convention in Quincy, Mass. This is the first convention held by the Granite Cutters' International Association in thirty-two years and one month, the last convention having been held in Boston, in 1890. This is no doubt a record that cannot be equaled by any other organization in America. The business of the international has been successfully conducted, both as to legislation and election of officers by the initiative and referendum. President Compers and Carl Legien will both address the convention before its close.

BOOT AND SHOE WORKERS

Boston, Mass., April. 20.--General-Secretary C. L. Baine gives out the statement that the women's shoe factory of the Geo. E. Keith company, located in this city, has just been organized and hereafter all women's shoes made by this company will bear the union stamp. A strike is also in progress, involving about 200 members of the Boot and Shoe Workers union in the McElwain company at Bridgewater, the contest originating because of the refusal of the company to grant a slight increase.

Electricians of Moberly, Mo., have just organized with a large charter list.

MINIMUM WAGE QUESTION

London, April 20.—Reynold's Newspaper says: "The question of a minimum wage which has been brought so strongly to the fore in the miners' strike, and which has been such a costly matter for many trade unionists, is likely to crop up again in other trades. Railway men may demand a minimum rate; postoffice officials may probably follow suit, while the seamen are much inclined to take similar action. Whether or not there will be a concerted plan or a general strike in May is at present doubtful, but should it take place, there is very little doubt but that the Transport Workers' Federation would be involved. Shop assistants are also demanding a minimum wage. All classes, however, are demanding a larger share of the profits which accrue from their labor."

SHIPYARD PIECE WORKERS

London, April 20.—Among the things upon which the officials of the Boilermakers' and Iron and Steel Ship Builders' Society congratulate themselves in their March report are the stoppage of the premium bonus system in the royal dock yards, the withdrawal of the discharge notes system and the issue by the home office of a draft order extending the detailed pay-lines to all piece workers on ship building, fitting out and repairing. Piece workers in the future will know exactly what they have earned.

JOURNEYMEN STONE CUTTERS

Washington, April 20.—Secretary James F. McHugh states that the Journeymen Stone Cutters' Association is meeting with splendid success in different sections of the country in securing increases in wages and establishing the Saturday half holiday. The members of the organization in this city have been granted an increase of 4 cents per hour. Other local organizations reporting success are Springfield, Ill., Amherst, O., Fort Wayne, Ind., San Francisco, Cal., and Madison, Wis.

MILK WAGON DRIVERS' UNION

Indianapolis, Ind., April 20.—Secretary Daniel J. Tobin of the Brotherhood of Teamsters reports that 2,000 milk drivers in Chicago have been successful in securing an increase in wages of \$1. per week for milk drivers and helpers, and the union shop agreement. The wage of the milk wagon drivers now is \$20.50 per week, double time for overtime, and the eight hour day. Eight years ago these drivers were organized, and at that time were receiving \$8 per week and working an unlimited number of hours.

SHOP ASSISTANTS' UNION

London, April 20.—The twenty-first annual conference of the Shop Assistants, Warehousemen and Clerks' union reveals a heavy increase in membership, the total reaching 22,148, the highest point reached in the history of the organization. The total balance standing to the credit of the union at the end of the year was \$200,000.

Washington, April 20.--Peter W. Collins, secretary of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, has tendered his resignation, to take effect on June 1, 1912. In the circular sent to the local unions, announcing his resignation, he states that he "Deems it his duty as a trade unionist to devote his services in the future to fighting the menace of socialism in the labor movement," adding: "The fight made against our brotherhood by the socialist movement and the socialists, individually, and as a party, was a bitter and malicious attack on the trade union movement of our country, with the purpose in view of destroying the trade unions in their advancement of the cause of the workers. We were successful in defeating the socialists in the labor movement and now in the decision of the courts of our country, which backed up the action of the American Federation of Labor. Our victory was complete. Our vindication by the labor movement and the courts indicate a splendid future for our brotherhood."

UNITED HATTERS WIN VICTORY

Washington, April 20.--The local union of hatters in Danbury, Conn., has won a decided and emphatic victory in the superior court. The union had a union shop agreement with one of the local factories, and one of the employees cancelled his membership with the organization and, according to the terms of the agreement, he was discharged. The discharged employee commenced suit for \$5,000 damages, and the decision above referred to was rendered in favor of the local union of hatters. It is a sweeping victory for organized labor and clearly makes legal the right of employers to make trade agreements with labor organizations to conduct a union shop.

ANTHRACITE MINERS

Washington, April 20.--Representatives of the anthracite miners, members of the United Mine Workers, are still negotiating with the operators in an effort to arrive at a settlement. The negotiations are being conducted very quietly and information of an important character is unobtainable. It is rumored, however, that the outlook is good for a settlement within a very short time.

RAILROAD TRADES MEETING

Washington, April 20.--There has been an important meeting of the federated trades now involved in the strike on the Harriman and Illinois Central systems at Kansas City. The executive officers of most of the important trades involved were in attendance. As to what action, if any, has been taken, no report has as yet been received.

ACCEPT WAGE AGREEMENT

Washington, April 20.--By a vote of 109,000 to 22,000, members of the United Mine Workers of America in the bituminous coal fields have ratified the Cleveland wage agreement and the miners will return to work within a week.

The liberties of the whole people are being preserved by the trade unions. Organize, educate and federate.

STARTLING STATISTICS

Washington, April 20.--In addressing the United States senate recently, Senator Chamberlin of Oregon in discussing the employers' liability and workmen's compensation bill, stated that "every six minutes, day and night, a railroad employee is killed or injured, and every two hours one is killed." "These figures are appalling," he said. "It is not to be wondered that there has been a loud and persistent demand on the part of employees engaged in all forms of hazardous employment for a change in the doctrines which have practically cast the burdens of industrial accidents upon the employees and their families, and who are least able to bear them. The trend of opinion is toward a policy that makes every business bear the burden of industrial accidents where human agencies are involved, just as it always has done to the inanimate instrumentalities."

SHOE WORKERS' ORGANIZATION A SUCCESS

Washington, April 20.--In a letter from John F. Tobin, president of the Boot and Shoe Workers International union, is contained the following: "Inasmuch as our organization has been pronounced a success, it behooves us to guard against a possibility of it being sidetracked from the lines we have been working out, which alone have contributed to our achievements. We have built up the highest standard of wages, the highest degree of discipline, the largest membership and the greatest financial resources that have ever existed in the shoe trade, consequently you will see the necessity for us avoiding taking on any new policy, which might have a dangerous tendency in switching us from our well-defined lines of progress."

TO ESTABLISH UNIFORM WAGE

Washington, April 20.--The Artisan, published at Holyoke, Mass., is authority for the statement that it is the plan of the leading New England cotton mill treasurers in the near future to make a further adjustment of cotton mill wages in an effort to bring all operatives engaged in the same class of work under a uniform wage. The cotton mill owners in New England employ approximately 100,000 operatives, and it has been asserted that a general advance in wages of 10% will be inaugurated during the month of April. It was first decided to grant an increase of 5% only, but the action of the Fall River and New Bedford owners in conceding a 10% raise has had the effect of bringing all the cotton mill owners to promise a similar increase.

TOBACCO TRUST INHUMAN

Washington, April 20.--The story is going the rounds in reference to the treatment of the women and girl cigarette packers employed by the American Tobacco company. It is stated that a system of fines is in operation which is practical thievery. The system is modeled somewhat on the plan of the Taylor system, in reference to discipline, in that girls are fined for speaking to their companions, and numerous other innocent acts. Cigarettes are packed according to a piece system, and it usually occurs that employees are required to pack more cigarettes than they get paid for. The story concludes with the assertion that the girls are practically helpless to redress their grievances.

WOMEN'S EIGHT HOUR LAW VALID

Seattle, Wash., April 20.--The state supreme court has rendered a decision that the eight-hour law for women, passed by the last session of the legislature, is constitutional. The test case was that of a forewoman in a Seattle box factory who kept a girl at work nine hours a day. There is an exemption in this law which provides that fruit and vegetable canneries can operate during certain seasons of the year in excess of eight hours, but it is designed only to aid establishments handling perishable products. The decision of the court is eminently satisfactory to labor.

IMPENDING STRIKE IN BUFFALO

Buffalo, April 20.--The agreement between the carpenters and the builders in this city expires the last of this month. A request has been made for an increase in wages from 45¢ to 50¢ per hour and also other changes in hours and working conditions. There is a disposition on the part of the builders to refuse the increase or make any concessions whatsoever. The officials of the carpenters are endeavoring to reach a satisfactory agreement and thus avoid a general suspension of work.

COMMISSION BEING URGED

Washington, April 20.--There is being urged the creation by congress of a commission to make a thorough investigation of the mining industry, as suggested in a bill introduced recently by Congressman Martin D. Foster of Illinois, chairman of the house committee on mines and mining. It is believed that such a general inquiry will be of inestimable value to the coal miners of the country, in that remedial legislation will follow.

PAPERHANGERS OUT

Indianapolis, Ind., April 20.--Eight dealers in wall paper, comprising what is known as the Wall Paper Dealers' Association, have broken with the local paperhangers' union. The organization this year made practically no demands, and the dealers have refused to sign an agreement, probably with the view of establishing the open shop. The outlook is that the paperhangers will shortly win out.

SIXTEEN HOUR LAW VIOLATIONS

Washington, April 20.--The government has a suit against the Boston & Maine railroad for working five of its employees overtime in alleged violation of the law limiting the hours of labor for railroad employees. A penalty of \$2,000 is sought on eight alleged violations. The law limits the hours of engineers and firemen to sixteen and those of telegraphers to nine.

COAL SHORTAGE

Norfolk, Va., April 20.--About 150 vessels are at this port and Newport News waiting for coal. This is one of the conditions brought about by the coal strike.

DELEGATE TO INTERNATIONAL MINING CONGRESS

Washington, April 20.--John H. Walker, president of the Illinois State Mine Workers' organization, also fraternal delegate-elect from the American Federation of Labor to the British Trades Union Congress, has also been elected a delegate to represent the United Mine Workers of America at the International Mining Congress to be held in Stockholm, Sweden, sometime in June.

NON UNIONISTS GO ON STRIKE

Indianapolis, Ind., April 20.--In an endeavor to better the conditions that prevail at the iron works at Heughville, between 500 and 600 unorganized men have gone on strike. A system of dockage has been worked to the point where the men have finally rebelled. It is said that these men should receive at least \$15 a week for the work they perform, but under the system in vogue in the plant the average wage is about \$9.

FAVORS DIRECT VOTE

Washington, April 20.--The lower house of the Massachusetts legislature has passed a resolution favorable to the calling of a constitutional convention to arrange for so amending the fundamental law of the commonwealth that it may meet a proposed amendment of the federal constitutional so as to provide for the election of United States senators by direct vote.

GIRLS DISPLACED BY CHINAMEN

Washington, April 20.--A story comes from Bellingham, Wash., that one of the large fish canning establishments has displaced 100 girls by Chinamen. The displacement is attributed to the fact that the firm was declared guilty of violating the state women's 8-hour law by forcing women to work more than eight hours a day.

WIN FORTY FOUR-HOUR WEEK

Boston, April 20.--The Boston Bookbinders' union executive board has announced that the forty-four hour week has been established at the Boston Public Library bindery. All the employes are members of the union. The Saturday half holiday has been granted without any reduction in wages.

STRIKE ENDS

West Warren, Mass., April 20.--The strike which has been in effect at the West Warren cotton mills of the Thorndike company has been ended with the return of 900 employes, who have been granted wage increases ranging from 7 to 15 per cent.

HOD CARRIERS ORGANIZING

Albany, April 20.--Secretary Persson of the International Hod Carriers' Union reports that thus far during the month of April local unions have been organized at Decatur, Ill., Newark, N. J., Batavia, Ill., Charlottesville, Va., and Princeton, Ind.,

Carpenters at Mystic, Iowa, secured increase from 31½ to 40¢ per hour without strike.

CONTEMPLATE ERECTION HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

Cincinnati, O., April 20.--Jere L. Sullivan, secretary of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees' International Alliance and Bartenders' International League 'is authority for the statement that the international union is considering the advisability of erecting a building for its general headquarters. Jere has offered four plans for raising sufficient funds within a period of two years, and these plans are being seriously considered by the general membership.

OVERCROWDED

Washington, April 20.--Information comes from the Pacific coast that owing to fanciful stories and advertisements there are a large number of tradesmen in that section without employment, and particularly the culinary workers. Alluring invitations, designed particularly to entice workmen to a particular part of the country, should be closely scrutinized ere a move is made, because many of these stories are delusive.

MAINTENANCE MEN MAKING GOOD

St. Louis, April 20.--President A. B. Lowe of the International Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees, reports that in 1904 the members of that organization failed in a strike against the Atlantic Coast Line, but the organization was maintained, and just recently a new and most favorable schedule was secured, granting good working conditions and wages.

AXE AND TOOL STRIKE

Charleston, W. Va., April 20.--There is a strike on against the three plants of the American Axe and Tool company in this city, Glassport and Beaver Falls, Pa., about 1,700 men and women being involved, and the plants are completely at a standstill. The men are striking for a 15 per cent increase in wages, and the outlook is for a favorable conclusion.

WATCH CASE ENGRAVERS

Canton, Ohio, April 20.--Secretary-Treasurer Carl E. Wesp of the Watch Case Engravers' International Association, reports that business in that craft is extremely dull, but that the working hours of the members of the organization have been reduced to forty hours per week.

ACTIVITY AT LOWELL, MASS.

Lowell, Mass., April 20.--The Plasterers in this city have secured the forty-four hour week without reduction in wages, the time heretofore being forty-eight hours. The carpenters are negotiating for a forty-four hour week at an increase of 5 cents per hour.

WEAVERS ORGANIZING

Manchester, N. H., April 20.--The Weavers employed by the Amoskeag Manufacturing company have organized a local union and affiliated with the United Textile Workers.